CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of displaying highlighted objects information on a graphical user interface (GUI), comprising:

a) highlighting a primary object O(*n*) displayed on a GUI window at a selected ~~hierarchically~~ hierarchical level (n), wherein the primary object is selected from the group consisting of a network node and a network link;

b) identifying a highlighted object O(*n-1*) ~~subtended~~ managed by said primary object at a hierarchically next lower level (*n-1*), wherein the highlighted object is selected from the group consisting of a network node, a network link, a shelf, a slot, a card, and a port;

c) selecting said highlighted object O(*n-1*) from an object storage means and placing same in a list of highlighted objects; and

d) repeating steps b) and c) for all n available hierarchical levels until all highlighted objects ~~corresponding to~~ managed by said primary object are identified and placed in said list.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising: e) displaying said list in a highlighted objects window where said highlighted objects are arranged in a specified order.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said specified order is the hierarchical order of said highlighted objects.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said list comprises a row for each highlighted object, and a plurality of columns, each column for providing a specified attribute of said highlighted object.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said specified attributes are the specification of said highlighted object and the name of said highlighted object.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said highlighted objects window displays a column for an icon visually identifying said highlighted object.

7. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said highlighted objects window displays an object status column for defining the current status of said highlighted object.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said highlighted objects window displays a count column for counting the number of said highlighted objects in said list.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said GUI selects said specified order by sorting the objects in said list by any of said columns.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented highlighted objects window system for a graphical user interface (GUI) of the type provided with highlighting capabilities and adapted to transmit commands and display information with a view to enable management of a communication network, said system comprising:

a computer-implemented computer program module for identifying all highlighted objects in a highlighted hierarchy ~~corresponding to~~ managed by a primary object highlighted on said GUI; and

a computer-implemented computer program module for selecting only said highlighted objects from an object storage means and placing said objects in a list, wherein:

the primary object is selected from the group consisting of a network node and a network link,

each highlighted object is selected from the group consisting of a network node, a network link, a shelf, a slot, a card, and a port, and

~~wherein~~ said GUI displays said list in a highlighted objects window where said highlighted objects are arranged in a specified order.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said list comprises a row for each highlighted object, and a plurality of columns, each column for providing a specific attribute of said highlighted object.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said GUI selects said specified order by sorting said list by any of said columns.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein said list includes a column for an icon visually identifying said highlighted object, a column with the specification of said highlighted object and a column with the name of said highlighted object.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein said list further comprises an object status column for defining the current status of said highlighted objects.

15. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein said list further comprises a count column for counting the number of said highlighted objects in said list.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein said object storage computer program module comprises an object library for maintaining data pertinent to all objects present at a respective network node.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein said object storage computer program module comprises a connectivity database for maintaining routing data pertinent to all routes currently involving a respective network node.

18. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said highlighted objects window comprises a refresh button for updating said list.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of using a graphical user interface (GUI) of the type provided with highlighting capabilities and adapted to transmit commands and display information with a view to enable management of a communication network, comprising:

~~a)~~ highlighting an original object on a GUI window displaying managed objects at a selected hierarchically level, wherein the original object is selected from the group consisting of a network node and a network link;

~~b)~~ identifying all highlighted objects ~~corresponding to~~ managed by said original object in all hierarchical levels subtended from said selected hierarchically level, wherein each highlighted object is selected group the group consisting of a network node, a network link, a shelf, a slot, a card, and a port;

~~c)~~ selecting all said highlighted objects from an object storage means and placing same in a list in a specified order; and

~~d)~~ displaying said list as a highlighted objects window for providing an automatic way to obtain information on a hierarchical chain of objects in said network.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said specified order is the hierarchical order of the objects.